

REMARKS

The present amendment makes editorial changes and corrects typographical errors in the specification, which includes the Abstract, in order to conform the specification to the requirements of United States Patent Practice. No new matter is added thereby. Attached hereto is a Substitute Specification including a marked-up version of the changes made thereto via by the present amendment.

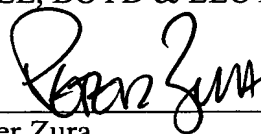
In addition, the present amendment cancels original claims 1-16 in favor of new claims 17-30. Claims 17-30 have been presented solely because the revisions by red-lining and underlining which would have been necessary in claims 1-16 in order to present those claims in accordance with preferred United States Patent Practice would have been too extensive, and thus would have been too burdensome. The present amendment is intended for clarification purposes only and not for substantial reasons related to patentability pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Indeed, the cancellation of claims 1-16 does not constitute an intent on the part of the Applicants to surrender any of the subject matter of claims 1-16.

Early consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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